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on which more light needs to be thrown,—such, for instance, as whether he had a personal interview with the Pretender when he was in Paris before the negotiation of the peace of Utrecht, and what was the immediate cause of his flight from England. In respect to these points, we are inclined to think both Mr. Cooke and Mr. Macknight are in error. The general judgment to be passed on Bolingbroke's public and private life, however, can scarcely be affected by the investigation of these questions; and he will probably always be regarded as “a brilliant knave,” to quote the pointed expression of Lord Macaulay.

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9. — *The Empire: a Series of Letters published in “The Daily News,”* 1862, 1863. By GOLDWIN SMITH. Oxford and London: J. H. and James Parker. 1863. Small 8vo. pp. xxiv. and 306.

MR. SMITH has held the position of Professor of Modern History at Oxford for only four or five years; but he has already given signal proof of his ability, and his intention to perform its functions in a manner creditable to himself and useful to all who may be brought within the range of his influence. The two volumes of lectures already published by him, and noticed in former numbers of this journal, are characterized by sound judgment, a wise and humane spirit, great vigor and independence of thought, and by a general liberality of tone, which, not many years ago, would have been looked for in vain in an Oxford Professor. In the less elaborate, but not less important, volume now before us, we find the same admirable qualities, with a breadth of information as to every part of his subject which few persons probably possess who have not made it their chief, if not their only study. Everywhere he shows that he is thoroughly acquainted with the momentous question which he discusses. To the style of his first volume of lectures we felt compelled to take exception, on the ground that it was needlessly hard and dry, and that it was more likely to repel than to attract readers; but to this censure his masterly discourse on “Irish History and Irish Character” was not open, and the style of the volume now on our table is not less praiseworthy. It is clear, concise, and vigorous, with an occasional gleam of humor relieving the natural dryness of the subject, and is everywhere adequate to the demands which the author makes on it. No intelligent reader can have any doubt as to what Mr. Smith thinks or intends to say. In one instance, indeed,—we believe it is a solitary instance,—some qualifying expression should be added in order to relieve the writer from the charge of inconsistency and of unfairness in argument. It is true that there is no real ground for such a charge, since he is looking at two entirely

different aspects of the subject; but even the most candid reader may be pardoned for starting back at the seeming contradiction in the following passages. In arguing that no great change in the English Colonial System is likely to be introduced by the home government, the author very justly remarks: "On every subject where popular prejudice is strong, the lips of a party-leader, to whose party popularity is the breath of life, are inevitably sealed. Organic change requires preparation and foresight. We had thirteen Colonial Secretaries in twenty years; and the far-reaching wisdom which looks to the fruit of distant years can hardly be expected from the minister of an hour." The argument, we think, is sound and unanswerable; but in another part of the same letter Mr. Smith apparently maintains that colonial affairs are chiefly under the direction of the permanent Under-Secretary, a functionary, it is perhaps needless to add, who does not vacate his office with a change of the Ministry. "The common idea," we are told, "both among ourselves and among the colonists is, that England herself is constantly engaged, with the wisdom of all her sages and the light of all her political experience, in conducting the political education of the Colonies. The fact is, that England is occupied with her own concerns. The tutelage of the Colonies is not exercised even by Parliament in any practical sense. It has been delegated wholly to the Colonial Office, and the Colonial Office, generally speaking, is the permanent Under-Secretary, — the 'Mr. Mother Country' of satirical writers on colonial subjects, who, as he has all the trouble and none of the glory, is likely, if his nature is human, to be content with administering his vast and motley empire according to established routine, and is not likely gratuitously to undertake problems with which the imperial genius of a Charlemagne might have feared to cope." If the business of the Colonial Office is managed by a subordinate officer who holds his position for many years, it would seem that the frequent changes in the Colonial Secretaryship cannot fairly be adduced as an argument against the probability that any policy will be adopted by the home government which will only produce its fruits in "distant years"; but in answer to this objection it is only necessary to remind the reader that the Under-Secretary is not a member of the Cabinet, and that no plan which he might devise could be carried into operation unless it were brought forward or strenuously supported by the Colonial Secretary himself as a Cabinet measure. For the reasons adduced by our author in the first of the above passages, it is certainly not at all probable that "the minister of an hour" would hazard the existence of his administration by supporting a measure which was not devised by himself, and the beneficial effects of which he could not expect to witness; and for the reasons adduced in the second

passage, it is still less likely that a subordinate, accustomed only to a certain routine, would carefully elaborate any comprehensive reform of which he would have "all the trouble and none of the glory." If we keep these two considerations in mind, the apparent inconsistency in the argument at once vanishes.

Mr. Smith has not, we are inclined to think, been very fortunate in the selection of a title to his volume, since "Empire" is a term of somewhat ambiguous signification; but in his Preface he gives a very clear explanation of the sense in which he uses it. "The term Empire is here taken in a wide sense," he writes, "as including all that the nation holds beyond its own shores and waters, by arms or in the way of dominion, as opposed to that national influence which a great power, though confining itself to its own territories, always exercises in the world. In the case of our Empire this definition will embrace a motley mass of British Colonies, conquered colonies of other European nations, conquered territories in India, military and maritime stations, and protectorates, including our practical protectorate of Turkey, as well as our legal protectorate of the Ionian Islands." The subject as thus defined he discusses with consummate ability in a series of eighteen letters, of which the first seventeen are reprinted with additions and corrections from the London "Daily News," and the last, on "India," is now published, we presume, for the first time. Of these letters eleven relate either to the general subject of the relations of the Colonies to the mother country or to Canada, one to New Zealand, one to Gibraltar, one to the Protectorate of Turkey, three to the Ionian Islands, and one to India; and the thesis which the writer maintains throughout is, that the British Colonies are a source of weakness rather than of strength, of loss rather than of gain to England, and that both the mother country and the Colonies would derive immense advantages from a peaceful separation. This thesis, as we have stated, is maintained with an unanswerable weight and cogency of argument; and we suppose there can be little doubt that the general tendency of opinion among thoughtful persons in England is in the direction of Mr. Smith's argument, while even among those who have the control of public affairs, and who are the most averse to radical changes of policy, there have not been wanting statesmen of acknowledged sagacity — like the late Sir G. C. Lewis — who have regarded separation as inevitable. But this is a result into which England is far more likely to "drift," than to be led by any ministry, though it is not impossible that the proposed cession of the Ionian Islands may hereafter furnish the needed precedent. Among educated and influential persons in the Colonies, we are inclined to think that our author's views are not likely to find so

many advocates in proportion to their numbers as those views will find in England among the same classes, since in all of the Colonies and dependencies a large part of the upper classes look on the Colonies as only a temporary place of residence, or derive some personal advantage from the continuance of the present Colonial relation, or "like to be partners in a strong firm," to adopt a phrase sometimes used by the Canadians when writing or speaking on this subject. No one, however, can fail to be struck by the ability with which Mr. Smith has discussed this important question. In his frequent references to our country, he shows the same soundness of judgment and the same attachment to free institutions which he exhibits in every other part of the book.

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10. — *Hospital Transports: a Memoir of the Embarkation of the Sick and Wounded from the Peninsula of Virginia in the Summer of 1862. Compiled and Published at the Request of the Sanitary Commission.* Boston: Ticknor and Fields. 1863. 16mo. pp. 167.

THERE is no organization in this country which has secured for itself a greater degree of confidence and sympathy throughout the Northern States, or which has drawn into its service a larger number of devoted and zealous supporters, than the United States Sanitary Commission. Persons of both sexes and of every age, of all our religious denominations and of every walk in life, of large and of small means, and of both the great political parties into which the country has again become divided, have esteemed it a privilege to aid by their time, their money, and the labor of their hands, in the work undertaken by it. Even those who were strongly of opinion that this work ought to be done by the government, instead of being left to the uncertain operation of private charity, and that the administration should be held to a strict responsibility for its proper performance, have not been backward in giving to the Commission the support necessary to enable it to discharge its various functions in an efficient and satisfactory manner. The trust thus reposed in it has not been misplaced. Occasional reports of its operations in a single department, during a single campaign, or on a single battle-field, have made known to the country in some degree the nature and extent of its services in alleviating the horrors of war; and the value of these services has been still further attested by the concurrent testimony of all who have made special investigation of the subject. Additional evidence to the same effect is furnished by the little volume named above. It is composed for the most part of extracts from the confidential and familiar reports of the Secretary, Mr.